AAZK NEWSLETTER



BELA I DEMETER

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NOTICE

OUR NEWSLETTER STAFF IS NOW OPERATING FROM ONE CENTRAL OFFICE. ALL CORRESPONDENCE DIRECTED TO AAZK NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AS FOLLOWS:

AAZK NEWSLETTER 3386 GRANADA AVE. SAN DIEGO, CALIF. 92104

ALL REPORTS AND ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THIS ADDRESS.

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES TO APPEAR IN NEXT ISSUE

IS THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.

SEPTEMBER MEETING ANOTHER SUCCESS

Our September meeting was a success, and the guest speaker, Dr. Charles Schroeder, Director of the San Diego Zoological Gardens gave us a very promising picture of the San Diego Zoo's future.

He related that the San Pasqual annex to our zoo has been approved by all factions of management, and tentative plans for construction are being formulated. This new zoological dispaly will be an open range reserve, with a safari train as the only means of public view. Early plans call for a restaurant and a large display of hoofed animals, land birds and lush tropical vegetation. Perhaps, the most enlightening aspect, is the open range for increased propagation. The acreage, located some 30 miles north of San Diego, in the San Pasquel Valley, so closely simulates the habitat of many African species, it will be the ideal place for a stay-at-home safari.

OUR MISTAKE!!

Last month we listed the Trailside Museum as being in Brookfield, Ill. It is located in River Forest, Ill. Mrs. Rosemarie Koblau is a keeper at Trailside. Our apologies, Rosemarie.

EXTINCT REPTILE FOUND ALIVE by Keeper, Angelo Feola, Rochester, N.Y.

A reptile believed to have been extinct has been found alive in Mexico. Making its home in the side of a hill, the "Tortuga Grande" or Torreon Tortoise still thrives with some assistance from the local inhabitants who feed them regularly.

Until only a few years ago, the Torreon Tortoise eluded discovery, weighing up to 10 pounds or more and well over 16 inches long with predominently yellow color including the iris of the eye.

The burrow this species digs is not simple and straight like that of the Gopher Tortoise of the Eastern U.S.A., and is branched out. Every four feet or so, the tunnel would fork and re-fork with a total of about 22 feet of tunnel work, to six feet or more underground.

Tortuga ventures away from its burrow a few hours in the evening or early morning to forage for food. This species has a strong colonial tendancy, digging the burrows in close proximity of one another. They are found not more than 100 miles south of our U.S.-Mexico border and at least one heavily traveled highway cuts through a large portion of their natural range.

For further reading refer to the Science Digest.

THE ELEPHANT IN CAPTIVITY by Elephant Keeper, Michael Polito, Rochester, N. My job is not the most sought after position in regard to the general public. An elephant is viewed with awe and splendor, the most sought after attraction in the zoo. The public at times considers this mammal dangerous because it is big; this is not always the rule for every individual elephant has a personality unique to that particular specimen. Some are dangerous, unpredictable, gentle, nervous or relaxed, easy to handle or so full of energy ready to battle anyone coming within range of its quarters. However, the elephant is basically unpredictable, therefore, its personality can contain a

variety of personality traits.

This mammal can be quite contented then suddenly bolt and charge for no apparent reason. We know an elephant is very tense and at the slightest noise or commotion will panic and charge sounding her horn. Since noise may be discernable by hearing alone, the elephants hearing is so acute the keeper may not always see what the disturbance is.

In any case, if the elephant is of a good nature and easily controllable, the keeper can use some basic animal psychology to the benefit of all concerned. Staying with his charge in a time of such an emotional outburst has a soothing effect upon the elephant, perhaps, under certain circumstances additional restraint should be used.

Toppy, the Seneca Park Zoo's twelve year old female Asiatic Elephant was imported into this country from Thailand at the age of four. About this time, I arrived at the zoo to immediately take charge of this animal. Spanning a period of eight years, I have gained invaluable experience and I wish to share my experience with others of my profession.

In the months to come, further supplements to this article will be published in the Newsletter. Information contained in this and further articles are based upon actual experience. Any keeper wishing additional information or has ideas he would like to exchange is welcome to write me care of the zoo. (Keeper, Michael Polito, Seneca Park Zoo)

2222 St. Paul St.

Rochester, N.Y.

SAN DIEGO KEEPER SUFFERS SEVERE LEG INJURY

Dale Day, Senior Keeper, Mammal Dept., at the San Diego Zoological Gardens suffered a double fracture of his leg while descending an aluminum ladder into one of the open Chimp grottos on Tucsday, Sept. 10, 1968. Dale was in the process of cleaning one of the water moats when the ladder slid down into the moat. His doctor reports that he's doing fine, but will be laid up for about twelve weeks.

We're sure he would welcome well wishes from fellow keepers. Cards can be sent to Dale Day, 945 Pennywood Rd., Santee, Calif. 92071.

HOW ABOUT THAT!

We are really proud to report 100% keeper membership from the

Portland Children's Zoo, Portland, Oregon.

This reflects the conscientious hands that tend the 267 specimens and 89 species that make up this magnificent children's land of nature. To name just a few of their charges, they proudly display Slow Loris, Greater Galago, 1 Potto, 2/0 Baby African Lions, 2 Tapir(tapiris Terreris)(1 young), Mata Mata Turtle, and many others. We welcome this worthy representation into the AAZK and look forward to a lot of news from Portland.

REPTILE BUILDING AT THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO by Richard M. Miller, Keeper A big attraction at the Milwaukee County Zoo this year has been the new Aquarium-Reptile Building. This display opened to the public in mid-May and has drawn unsatiable attendance daily.

The reptile-amphibian collection exhibits over 200 individual animals representing about 75 different species. Eighteen cages house poisonous & non-poisonous reptiles; three larger displays are devoted to the large constrictors and 17 windows are presented in a tier arrangement for the smaller animals. Two 35 foot cages utilizing rock work, waterfalls and live plantings feature the splendid alligator group and 8 species of larger lizards. All cages are walled with ceramic tile and each is individually controlled with thermostatic heating coils. The pleasant, spacious service areas are an envy to every visiting zoo keeper

A unique feature of the collection is the artistic presentation realized in each display. Every cage was personally designed and executed by reptile supervisor, David G. Zucconi, either simulating the natural environment of the animal displayed or complementing its mood and physical characteristics. The alligatore exhibit, a hanging-moss swamp replete with teeming anoles and fallen logs, can contend with any single animal presentation anywhere for its natural beauty.

Among the highlights features in the collection are a large alligator snapping turtle, a six-foot Varanus Salvatorwater monitor, a handsome pair of Chinese stripe-tail rat snakes, a trio of thriving brilliant green mambas and a bullsnake holding the confirmed longevity record in captivity for an individual of its kind-17 years. A popular curio with the children is a large five-legged bullfrog.

To date the collection has enjoyed unanticipated success for a newly assembled group of sensitive animals. Dramatizing the acclimation of

her fellow occupants in the building, one of the Russell's vipers presented a July-Sunday crowd of zoo visitors with a litter of 46 babies!

SHARE THE ENJOYMENT by Frank F. Velte, Keeper, Rochester, N.Y.

Not everyone can work in a zoo, yet there are many who have a keen interest in zoology who are never heard from. Zoological societies are wonderful but they are too formal and consist of many people just generally interested.

In Rochester, we have a "study group" whose aim is to satisfy the appetite of the more enthusiastic members. Our study group was formed many years ago by Mr. Melvin Meyer, Treasurer of the Seneca Zoological Society. Meetings are held monthly and are well attended. Unlike the zoo society, our members don't sit back and wait to be entertained. They have to work but this work increases their own zoological knowledge. It gives them a feeling of accomplishment.

Now the question arises, "What kind of work has to be done?"
No physical work is involved except turning the pages of a book. One meeting may be a three page quiz on all wildlife. You have a month to search out these answers but you better have your sources available for more than likely you will be challanged. Answering quizzes is not all the fun. Try making a quiz with different questions to stump the sharp ones including the zoo director! Other programs may consist of members visits to other zoos. These are always enjoyable. Want a real backbreaker? Take a menu from a restaurant and ask the members to translate the whole card from salad to desert into Latin-Linnean style.

So why not share the wealth? Start your own "study group" and watch how your knowledge of zoo animals will increase while you are having fun.

CARE AND HANDLING FOR KIMI by Val DeLeon, Sr. Trainer, Oakland, Calif.

When securing elephant for the night or discipline purposes,
always chain a front and a back foot. This will give you more control
over her and also prevent her from the habit of going around in
circles and getting excited at every slight movement or noise.

Always chain back foot first (and high), not too tight, chain front foot low and loose. When unchaining, reverse the procedure.

Elephants should be chained and secured before feeding. Hay, greens and grains should be checked for foreign matters.

When working close to elephants, continually try to be calm and follow the same routine. Remember! A pet and trained elephant can be very dangerous. too.

In the morning or any time, for that matter, when you are in the elephant house or near the elephant, make some kind of noise or whistle so she will know you are near. Never, under any circumstances, should you sneak up on an elephant. This is a good way to get hurt!

For safety measures, two men should work with the elephant. If for any reason, the elephant is very excited or acting very strange, don't take chances—contact the elephant trainer.

When leading an elephant, stay on her left side, in line with her forehead, so you can get a hold of her trunk in case of an emergency

Never hesitate to use the elephant hook. But never, under any circumstances, hook her on the following places-trunk, eyes, ears, tail, private organs, leg joints, or foot pads.

When you give her a command, give her enough time to execute it.

Don't give her a command that you know she won't do for you.

DID YOU KNOW? by J.K.Willingham, Keeper, San Diego

There is an Asian catfish known as the 'Walking Catfish' (Bufo marinus). It is equipped with auxiliary breathing organs and can live out of water for hours. It has stubby muscular pectoral fins with which it can propel itself along the ground. This fish is very active at night or when disturbed. The Clarias, as it is called has been known to forage on land for food such as snails and pine needles. In the water, it feeds on small crayfish and shrimp.

This fish was introduced into Florida's interconnected drainage systems by a fish farmer several years ago. Because of this foolish act, Florida may be faced with a most formidable immigrant. The fish is very pugnacious and is fast gaining the upper hand over native fish, which could mean disaster for such fish as bass and brim. Poison is almost impossible because this fish leaps from the water and travels overland. At the present, biologists, assigned to investigate, say this fish may be unmanageable.

In the interest of conservation, no foreign creature should be

introduced into this country by unauthorized people.

Careful studies are made by the Fish and Wildlife Service,

biologists, conservationists and others that are qualified in this field of work.

Some imports that have worked out are-Ringneck Pheasants, Chuckar Partridge and Aoudad Sheep. Some that haven't worked out so well are the English Sparrow, Starling, Bufo Toad, Water Hycinth, Red-whiskered Bulbul, and the Asian Walking Catfish.

NEWS FROM MIDDLESEX FELLS ZOO reported by Edward A. Roberts We have a new aviary at the zoo and it has been shown in the Popular Science Magazine. As a matter of fact, the zoo has been rebuilt at a cost of 3.5 million. We are featuring large moated areas for lions and tigers, polar bears, elephants, antelope range, hyenas, tapirs, red pandas, and otter (Asiatic). Our Mammal House is a large 9 cage building with huge picture windows in the front so the public can see, but not touch, the large primates and leopards. The glass is made of $1\frac{1}{5}$ Herculite and framed in stainless steel. The cages are radiantly heated on the floor and in the summer, fresh air is pumped in and out, circulating at all times, keeping odors down to a minimum.

To come back to the aviary, the building is 100' long by 80' wide and is made with a new type fiber glass panneling that has the insulating quality of 30" of concrete. Our lower area has four large cages for Tucans, Puerto Rican Jays, Weaver Birds, and Humming birds and Hoopoes. Our open flight area that contains a complete tropical paradise has over 132 birds in it at this time. Public access is by

the use of ramps. Eight smaller shadow boxes at the top of the viewing area contain Finch type birds. The house is completely air-conditioned and temperature and humidity controlled at 75 degrees.

NEWS FROM KNOWLAND PARK ZOO reported by Ed Schulze New Arrivals include:

Small Mammal: 1 Vulpine Phlanger 1 Slow Loris
Winter Quarters: 1 male Chapman Zebra 1 female Eland
Giraffe House: 1 female Giraffe (7th to be born at the new zoo)

NEWS FROM KNOWLAND PARK ZOO reported by Charles F. MacGowan We would like to aquaint you with our performing elephant which has been a very popular event here at the Knowland Park Zoo for the last 10 years.

Kimi, the star performer, is a $4\frac{1}{2}$ year old packaderm who responds to 34 different commands. She has been trained by our Head Trainer, Mr. Val DeLeon. Some of Kimi's most spectacular stunts are:rolling on a barrel, hind-foot stand, walking the plank, and playing the harmonica. We are quite proud of her performances and we would like to invite all AAZK personnel to visit our zoo and see her in action.

NEWS FROM BROOKFIELD ZOO reported by Dewey Garvey Births from our animal section: 1/0 Yak 1/1 Collard Peccary 1/0 Grevy Zebra 4/1 Sitatunga 1/0 Hamadryas Baboon 1/0 Greater Kudu

2 Agouti 1 Giant African Pouched Rat 7/? Pileated & Concolor (cross) Gibbon

There are still some states that have no laws to protect harmless animals from destruction. Thoughtless people kill non-game birds just to line up their sights; some people kill defenseless non-poisonous snakes just because they are supposedly slimy and ugly.

I believe when any one sees a chance to urge the passing of a bill in a state legislature, they should get on the bandwagon and flood the state newspapers with editorials backing the legislature and write to the state's legislature urging the passing of this bill. We as

zoo keepers can let them know how we feel.

An example is the state of South Dakota. This state has just this year gotten around to putting a bill before the house to make it a misdemeanor to kill harmless snakes. This bill has passed the house and is now going to the Legislature, then it will have to be signed by the Govenor. This bill has the support of Earl Brockelsby of the Black Hills Reptile Gardens, the AAZPA and the Chicago Herb. Society has also endorsed the bill. I urge all zoo keepers to get on their bandwagon and write to this state's newspapers or its legislators urging prompt passage of this law.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The AAZK is also backing passage of this worth-

while conservation effort.

Animal tagging at Brookfield: Investigating the different ways of tagging or identifying different groups, proved to be a hard choice. We discovered that an animal could be branded, freeze branded, tatooed

in the ear or on the hoof, tags attached to the brisket, and a very large assortment of tags, from large easy to identify tags to small almost unnoticeable tags, attached to the ear.

Brookfield decided on the small inconspicious tag that is almost unnoticeable to the public. The reason for tagging the animal is to keep the animals in large herds from inbreeding with their parents or brothers and sisters. This way, the breeding of animals can be carefully controlled. We are tagging the male in the left ear and the female in the right. A different color tag each year to determine the age of an animal. A different number sequence to keep breeding straight when transferring from one herd to another. (AAZK commends this procedure)

TREASURER TOURS ZOOS

Walt Bromley, AAZK, San Diego, Treasurer, together with his wife and son had the opportunity to visit several zoos while on vacation. The first stop was made at Stanley Park Zoo in Vancouver, Canada and on their return to San Diego, they visited the San Francisco Zoo, Oakland Zoo, Portland Zoo, and the new Los Angeles Zoo. Walt and his family would like to convey their appreciations to the keepers and other zoo personnel at each of the zoos visited. Your hospitality and friendliness made it a pleasant holiday for them.

We were also pleased to learn through Walt that it appeared to be a fine AAZK welcome. You can be assured a fine time if you should look Walt up at the San Diego Zoo.

REPRINTS-THE LIFE BLOOD OF SCIENCE

by Marjorie Betts, Librarian, San Diego Zoological Gardens, Calif.

To stay current with happenings in the realm of science, it's necessary to be familiar with the current literature published in journals, rather then wait for this new information to be compiled in book form. With the great number of important periodicals being published, subscription costs might be prohibitive to an organization with a small library budget. Reprints are an answer.

Historically, reprints of published literature were exchanged within the scientific community for much the same reason they are exchanged today. Those most interested can acquire new information rapidly, thus promoting scientific communication and cooperation, and ultimately furthering science. The only real difference is that the "scientific community" has greatly expanded since reprints were first exchanged among colleagues. This means an increase of time, effort, and money expended on the part of the author.

An author purchases reprints from the publisher at the time the article is being printed for journal publication, and answering reprint requests is the author's responsibility. It is therefore desirable that the individual requesting a reprint makes it as easy as possible for the author to fill that request. One method currently being used by the National Bureau of Standards, and the U.S. Army Human Engineering Laboratories is to send the request printed on the inside flap of an $8\frac{1}{7}$ x 11 inch envelope.

The envelope is mailed out empty with the $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 inch flap tucked in, and a message on the front, "Please Pull Out Flap-Message Inside." The inside of the flap reads, "We would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint, if available, of your paper which appeared in If no reprints are available, please check here and return this envelope. Thank you for your courtesy." Spaces for date and signature are included. When sealed, the oversized flap will cover the address to which the request has been sent, and bears a return address and the necessary postage.

Reprints are generally mailed third class, the postal rate being six cents for the first two ounces, and two cents for each additional ounce. It's seldom that a reprint will weigh more than two ounces, as a five-leaf, slick-paper reprint measuring 7° x 10° with a heavy

paper cover weighs slightly under 3/4 of an ounce.

The value of reprints from foreign-language publications should not be overlooked. Quite frequently, foreign-language articles will have an Elglish summery, and are often times well worth having translated. You cannot enclose postage for a reprint mailed from another country. However, you may obtain International Reply Coupons at your post office with which stamps can be purchased in foreign countries. Requests going overseas should be printed in English, French and German (see sample below) and should have a detachable portion printed with the return address if the request is sent on a printed card:

I should greatly

Je vous serais tres

Ich bitte höflichst

appreciate receiving a reprint of your publication:
Thank you in advance Sincerely yours,

oblige de m'envoyer un tirage à part de votre publication: Je vous en remericie d'avance, um Übersendung eines Sonderdruckes Ihrer Arbeit:
Ich danke Ihnen im Voraus fur Ihre Muhe Mit den besten Empfehlungen,

(Signature)

A more satisfactory system, however, would be to use the previous mentioned envelope, with the request printed in three languages inside the flap. Reprint requests should be personalized at least

to the extent of carrying a personal signature.

Cataloging and filing of reprints is a matter of individual preference. At the San Diego Zoo Library, reprints are kept in a filing cabinet. The author's name, date of publication, and a brief title are written on the upper left-hand corner of the reprint which is filed alphabetically by author. A <u>subject</u> card file for reprints is maintained with each subject card listing brief titles, followed by the author's surname and the publication date. In this way, the cards serve as a subject index and the reprints as an author index.

Each NEWSLETTER'S literature section will assist those interested in obtaining reprints. In addition to the usual publication information, the NEWSLETTER lists the author's address when reprints are available. There is also information on how to subscribe to all the periodicals cited. (The NEWSLETTER referred to is the AAZPA NEWSLETTER).

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NEWS FROM SAN DIEGO ZOO

Births-Mammal Department: 2 White Bearded Gnu 1 female Nilgai

1/1 Roosevelt's Gaselle 1 male Water Buffalo 1 Siamang

1 Cape Hartebeest 1 female Guanaco

Arrivals-Mammal Department: 2 female Barbery Apes

Hatchings-Bird Department: 3 Darvin's Rheas 2 Speckled Tanagers

4 Golden-headed Tanagers 1 Red-headed Barbet 4 Blue & Black Tanagers

4 Green & Gold Tanagers 3 Silver-throated Tanagers

2 Hooded Mt. Tanagers 5 Beautiful Sunbirds from Kenya

The total attendance at the main gate for the Labor Day weekend

was 60,908; at the Children's Zoo, it was 20,587. The totals for the

1967 Labor Day weekend were: 46,546 at the main gate, and 15,383 at

the Children's Zoo.
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NEWS FROM CATSKILL GAME FARM reported by Harold Johnson

B	ir ths:		
1	Scimitar-horned Oryx	3 Dama Gazelles	5 White-tailed Gnus
1	Congo Buffalo	5 Gemsbok	2 Addax Antelope
6	European Roedeer	5 Barasingha Deer	3 Siberian Roedeer
3	Rheas	1 Osborne Caribou	14 Emus
2	American Buffalo	40 Llamas	3 Sables

AAZK WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS
Don Beery (Seattle, Wash.)

Dennis Carlson(Seattle, Wash.)

```
Wally English (Seattle, Wash.)
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Jess Roe (Seattle, Wash.)
Lee Werle (Seattle, Wash.)
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Jeffery Toffic (W. Orange, N. J.)
Arlene Reed (W. Orange, N. J.)
James Rhea (Erie, Pa.)
Elizabeth Dobbs (Atlanta, Ga.)
Gene E. Leo, Jr. (Portland, Orc.)
Mickael Blakely (Portland, Orc.)
Sallie Davies (Portland, Ore.)
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REGULAR MEMBERS: John Maganell(N.I.H.), Samuel Lee Lockhart(N.I.H.)

MEMBERS NOTE!!!

Please advise AAZK office if you did not receive previous News-letters. Another copy will be sent immediately. Check your address labels and make sure we have your correct, complete address including the right zip code. Effective January, we will be mailing by postal permit and must have complete addresses. (EDITOR)

KEEPER'S CORNER

Members are urged to send us short biographical sketches so we can continue our Keeper's Corner Column. We would like to present a short background on individual keepers, from different areas each month. Just send us a few facts and we'll write you into the records!! Your cooperation is needed.

OCTOBER MEETING

Mr. Gary Clark will speak at the Oct. 3 Dinner-meeting of the AAZK, San Diego. The subject of his talk "Zoological Park Appreciation," will deal with the origin of zoos and their benefit.

Mr. Clark, one of the few keepers who reached the top by his experience and initiative is a prime example of our adopted slogan "If it is to be, it is up to me to do it."

NEWS FROM TOPEKA ZOO reported by John Wortman Recent arrivals:

5 Spanish Pond Turtles 7 European Vipers 5 Aspic Vipers
1 European Lizard 2 European Grass Snakes1/1 Wooly Opossum
1 Grey 4 Eyed Opossum 1 Parasitic Jaegar 1 Orunoko Crocodile
0/1 Rhea 2 Dwarf Crocodile
1 European Smooth-scaled Snake 4 European Grass Lizards
2/2 Blue Wing Teal(hatched) 2 Yellow-headed Goulden Finches

John Wortman, on Sept. 12-13 attended the Central Zoo Workshop, Mesker Park Zoo, Evansville, Indiana. The agenda consisted of a tour of M.P.Z. animal exchange session and several lectures over a variety of zoo subjects. The entire program was informative.

TOGETHER AGAIN

An An & Chi Chi, the celebrated giant pandas of the Moscow and London Zoos are together again. Although sharing the same enclosure, there are still no signs of compatibility.

About two years ago, Chi Chi, the female from London, was sent to the Moscow Zoo for breeding-it failed. The change has been reversed but still no luck.

CINNCINNATI ZOO FORMS AFFILIATE CHAPTER

The keepers of the Cinncinnati Zoo petitioned AAZK Headquarters for charter acceptance and were awarded chapter #AF-1. This gives the AAZK its first affiliate chapter in the east. We hope Cinncinnati's organizational actions will encourage other zoos to follow suit. They have elected four temporary officers. Dave Jordine, President; Paul Westerbeck, V.P.; Vernon J. Oswald, Secretary; Frank Hoffman, Treasurer.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- 1. What bear does not hibernate in winter?
- 2. What birds can fly as fast as 180 MPH?
- 3. What mammal is the most dangerous fighter when cornered?
- 4. How old is a camel before he is full grown?
- 5. The Mastadon was the ancient relative of what present day mammal?

Answers to last month's quiz.

- 1. The International Zoo Yearbook IV lists the Grey Seal as . secreting the richest milk. (53.2% milk fat)
- 2. The penguin has square pupiled eyes.
- 3. Yes, there is a species of rattlesnake without a rattle string. It is the Cortalus Catalinenisis found on Catalina Island, Calif.
- 4. The largest of all the fish is the whale shark.
- 5. The Psittacidae (Parrot family) is the order of birds that has lost and is loosing more species than any other.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

U.S.A.—10c per copy or \$1.00 per year to non members Foreign—\$2.50 per year

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